

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 231143

62

ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 L-03 SPC-03 AID-20 NSC-10

RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 H-03 /120 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:EESEGALL;EB/ITP/EWT:RBWRIGH:TLW

APPROVED BY EB:WCARMSTRONG

EUR:JAARMITAGE (SUBS)

COMMERCE/BEWT:SLAZARUS

EUR/EE:JABAKER, JR.

EUR/EE:MVANHEUVEN (SUBS)

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P 232313Z NOV 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, RO

SUBJECT: STANCIU CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMSTRONG

1. FOLLOWING ARE MAIN POINTS MADE DURING NOV 23 CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMSTRONG BY STANCIU, DEPUTY MINISTER OF ROMANIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE. (ALSO PRESENT DURING CALL WERE SIN OF THE ROMANIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND AMBASSADOR BOGDAN ON THE ROMANIAN SIDE AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE, AND LAZARUS, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE ON THE US SIDE.)

2. STANCIU BEGAN THE BUSINESS PART OF HIS CALL BY SAYING THE GOR BELIEVES THAT A LONG-TERM AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC, INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION WOULD BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE FOR THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF US-ROMANIAN RELATIONS IN THESE FIELDS. HE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A LEGAL FRAMEWORK TO HELP ACCELERATE THIS DEVELOP-
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PAGE 02 STATE 231143

MENT AND POINTED TO SIMILAR AGREEMENTS ROMANIA HAS

CONCLUDED WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. HE NOTED THAT THE GOR HAD PREPARED A DRAFT OF THIS TYPE OF AGREEMENT AND HOPED TO SIGN SUCH AN AGREEMENT DURING PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU'S COMING VISIT.

3. IN HIS RESPONSE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMSTRONG STRESSED THAT US PRACTICE IS NOT TO SIGN AGREEMENTS LIKE THE ONE SUGGESTED BY THE ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT. TECHNOLOGICAL

COOPERATION IN THE US IS A MATTER FOR PRIVATE BUSINESS TO DETERMINE. IN ANY EVENT, IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO NEGOTIATE AND SIGN AN AGREEMENT IN THE SHORT TIME REMAINING BEFORE THE CEAUSESCU VISIT TAKES PLACE. AS A SECOND POINT ARMSTRONG EMPHASIZED THAT THE QUESTION OF OUR RELATIONS WITH EE COUNTRIES BEARS ON THE TRADE REFORM BILL NOW BEING CONSIDERED IN CONGRESS. THIS BILL IS AT PRESENT IN A RATHER DELICATE STATE FOR INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL REASONS AND IT WOULD BE IMPRUDENT FOR US TO SIGN A LONG-TERM AGREEMENT WITH THE GOR IN THE ECONOMIC AREA WHILE LEGISLATION IS PENDING.

4. ARMSTRONG WENT ON TO SAY THAT WE WILL STUDY THE DRAFT AND GIVE THE GOR A RESPONSE. IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE, HE CONTINUED, THAT WHEN WE GET THE NECESSARY LEGISLATION WE MAY WANT OR MAY BE DIRECTED BY THE LAW TO NEGOTIATE SOME INSTRUMENT IN THIS FIELD, AND SOME OF THE POINTS MADE IN THE ROMANIAN DRAFT MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE. HE ALSO NOTED THAT GOR ACCESSION TO GATT MIGHT COVER PART OF SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT. TRADE AGREEMENT US SIGNED WITH THE USSR WAS BASED ON SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, INCLUDING LEND-LEASE SETTLEMENT. IT ALSO REFLECTS THE FACT THAT THE USSR IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE GATT AND NOT LIKELY TO BECOME ONE. IN SAYING THIS ARMSTRONG REITERATED THAT OUR OPPOSITION TO SIGNING AN AGREEMENT AT THIS TIME DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE ARE OPPOSED TO INCREASING INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND TRADE, WITH ROMANIA. WE WISH TO SEE OUR ACTIVITIES IN THESE FIELDS EXPANDED.

5. STANCIU RESPONDED BY NOTING THAT ROMANIA'S ECONOMIC AND OTHER RELATIONS WITH THE US WERE GOOD BUT THE GOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 231143

BELIEVES THAT AN AGREEMENT WOULD PUT FUTURE GROWTH ON A MORE SOLID FOUNDATION. ARMSTRONG ASKED IF THE ROMANIANS HAD ANY SPECIFIC PROBLEMS. IF THERE WERE ANY PROBLEMS, THE US WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER. HE ALSO STATED THAT HE HAD NOT NOTICED ANY LACK OF INTEREST ON THE PART OF AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN IN DEVELOPING RELATIONS WITH ROMANIAN FIRMS.

6. LAZARUS SUPPORTED ARMSTRONG'S STATEMENT WITH ADDITIONAL DETAILS INCLUDING THE FACT THAT COMMERCE WAS WORKING ON A 25 ITEM LIST THAT HAD BEEN GIVEN TO COMMERCE BY ROMANIAN COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR FODOR FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF US-ROMANIAN TRADE AND OTHER ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

7. ARMITAGE NOTED THAT LEGISLATION PREPARING THE WAY FOR MFN TREATMENT FOR ROMANIA IS AT THE TOP OF THE LIST FOR EXPANSION OF OUR RELATIONS AND STRESSED THAT WE WANT TO AVOID ANYTHING THAT WOULD CAST A SHADOW ON THIS EFFORT.

ARMITAGE ALSO NOTED THAT SOMETHING MIGHT BE ADDED TO THE LANGUAGE IN THE DRAFT JOINT STATEMENT ON THE CEAUSESCU VISIT COVERING OUR INTEREST IN EXPANDING ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH ROMANIA.

8. AFTER ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION ON THE VARIOUS REASONS WHY ROMANIA BELIEVED IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE A LONG-TERM AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC MATTERS, STANCIU PRESENTED THE ROMANIAN DRAFT TEXT.

9. ARMSTRONG SAID THAT WE WOULD LOOK AT THE TEXT AND IN A FEW DAYS GIVE THE ROMANIAN SIDE OUR PRELIMINARY COMMENTS. IN SAYING THIS HE EMPHASIZED THAT IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT WE ARE NOT NEGOTIATING AN AGREEMENT. HE REEMPHASIZED THAT OUR COMMENTS WILL BE STRICTLY PRELIMINARY.

10. BOGDAN MENTIONED THAT HE WISHED TO BE FRANK AND SAID HE WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO APPEAL TO THE SECRETARY CONCERNING THE POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATING A LONG-TERM ECONOMIC AGREEMENT.

11. ARMSTRONG SUGGESTED THAT THE ROMANIAN AND AMERICAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 STATE 231143

SIDES MEET AT 3:00 P.M. ON NOV 27 TO HEAR THE US SIDE'S PRELIMINARY COMMENT ON THE ROMANIAN DRAFT. AFTER THIS WAS AGREED TO BY THE ROMANIANS, ARMSTRONG REEMPHASIZED THAT THIS COMING MEETING COULD NOT BE DESCRIBED AS NEGOTIATION. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENT DRAFT, SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, TRADE LAW, ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS, TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE231143
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EESEGALL;EB/ITP/EWT:RBWRIGH:TLW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731115/aaaaalao.tel
Line Count: 159
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Sep-2001 by freemaal>; APPROVED <01-Nov-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STANCIU CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMSTRONG
TAGS: SCUL, RO, US, (CEAUSESCU, NICALOE), (STANCIU)
To: BUCHAREST
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005